(d) if so, the details of the discussion held between the two countries uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The Dialogue serves as an institutional forum for regular consultations between India and the United States on developments in India's extended neighbourhood and represents another step in fulfilling the commitment of the Prime Minister and the U.S. President to strengthen the strategic framework of India-U.S. relations.

(c) Yes.

(d) The first India–U.S. Regional Dialogue was held on 24-25 September 2002. The two sides exchanged views on the current and long-term political, economic and security issues in the region.

Neighbourhood economic policy

1703. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is working on a neighbourhood economic policy;

(b) if so, the details of the policy and in what way it is different from the usual foreign policy; and

(c) the countries those are being associated in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government's objective remains to strengthen mutually beneficial trade and economic linkages with all our neighbours, both, through bilateral initiatives, as well as through relevant regional cooperation mechanisms. Policies are constantly finetuned to subserve this objective.

Venue of SAARC summit

1704. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next meetings of the SAARC is going to be held in Islamabad in January, 2003;